

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 6-7, 9, 11-19, 21-24, 26-27 and 29-31 are presently active in this case. The present Amendment amends Claims 6, 9, 13, 15-16, 19, 21, 26 and 29-30; and cancels Claims 1, 4-5, 8, 10 and 32-38 without prejudice or disclaimer.

The outstanding Office Action objected to Claims 16, 29 and 30 because of informalities. Claims 1, 4-5, 8, 10, 16, 19 and 32-38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Hotomi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,027,157, herein “Hotomi”). Claims 7 and 11-12 were allowed and dependent Claims 6, 9, 13-15, 17-18, 20-24, 26-27 and 29-31 were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter. In response, rejected Claims 1, 4-5, 8, 10 and 32-38 are cancelled. In addition, Claims 6 and 9 are amended to depend upon allowed independent Claim 7, and Claims 13 and 15 are amended to depend upon Claim 12. Multiple-dependent Claim 16 is amended to depend upon Claims 6-7, 9, or 11-15, respectively. The features of allowable dependent Claim 20 are incorporated into rejected, independent Claim 19. Therefore, independent Claim 19 is believed to be in condition for allowance. Consequently, Claim 20 is cancelled. Claim 26 is amended to depend upon independent Claim 19, and Claims 29-30 are amended to depend upon Claims 22-23, respectively.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal Allowance. A Notice of Allowance for Claims 6-7, 9, 11-19, 21-24, 26-27 and 29-31 is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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